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March 27, 1962

Re: Henrijs BAGATAIS /

Born 12 September 1919, in Balvi, Latvia.

The following information could be ascertained:

He went to school in Balvi, probably did not finish secondary school; and worked as a salesclerk (or minor employee) in the Army Department Store at Riga during the last few years of the independence period;

during World War II, he served in special German units (probably SD); at the end of the war he is said to have been taken a prisoner by the Russians on the Hela Peninsula (near Danzig); at that time he also lost one arm; later he got out of Russian imprisonment (he never told anyone exactly how it happened); then he lived for a short time in the British Occupation Zone (Luebeck), and after that moved to the US Occupation Zone (Augsburg):

he showed more interest in New York in /Latvian/ public organizations; he was an active member of the DV Association, and chairman of its board for 3 years; for the last 3 years or more he has hardly shown himself at all in DV circles;

two years ago he went to Australia where his brother is said to be living (i.e. at that time, now he is probably dead) and his wife, from whom he is unofficially separated. His wife probably has /custody of/ a child or several children. At this time too, people say that he is leaving on 5 April on a visit to Australia. He has told his acquaintances different things about this trip; one version was that he is going on a visit, and the other version, that he is

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going to stay there. He is said to have given up his apartment (he sold the furniture, and left only the paintings) and is now staying in the same building (where his apartment used to be) with Mrs. Irena Nadzins (412 Cathedral Parkway, New York City). Mrs. Nadzins' telephone number is UN 5-3971. This lady was living in H.B.'s apartment several years ago as a subtenant; she is a trained nurse by occupation and was active for a while in the DV organization (she was head of the "Vanadzies" of the New York Association), but for the last 4 or 5 years she has not shown herself in the DV society;

H. B. rented a fairly well-furnished apartment (see above address) on the first floor; it had good furniture and many paintings. He often had subtenants, apparently mostly students. One of them (Mr. Valters AUGUSTANS, whose parents live in Boston; I know his father from Latvia), as well as his father, warned me several years ago to be careful in my association with H. Bagatais, as he appeared to be politically suspect. When I asked why they thought so, I received no further explanation.

I met H.B. several times (I have known him since the fall of 1956), and was (probably) three times at his apartment. There were always several other persons present, and I did not notice anything suspicious in my conversations with him (regarding his political inclination).

H.B. had many acquaintances and friends among the Latvians in New York. I believe he acquired them during the time of his public activity in the DV organization.

Among these acquaintances were Mrs. BEDRITE, Mrs. ~~E. LAPINA, ~~and others~~~~ Cecilija Alise ZIEMELIS, Teo KRUM, Elza ZEBRANSKA, and others. He was also acquainted with several well-known public figures and artists, as for example the deceased A. Blodnieks, former Latvian Prime Minister, as well as the deceased artist Ludolfs

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LIBERTS, and others. H.B. sometimes arranged large parties in his apartment, but I don't know who attended them.

He is a close friend of Roberts ANCANS, both of them are from Balvi and probably went to school together for some time. They also lived together in Augsburg (Germany) until their emigration to the US.

In general, H.B. is regarded by society as a mysterious person. No one even knows (among his acquaintances whom I questioned) where he works. He only mentioned to me that he was workingⁱⁿ/a (commercial) enterprise as a packing checker.

It is possible that he ~~xx~~ conceals his past, as he probably denied ~~xxx~~ having served in the German Army at the time of the "DP Screening" in Germany; he also probably suppressed the fact that he was a POW of the Russians; and he wants to keep his secrets to himself. However, it is just as possible that there is something else behind this mysterious person.

From the days of his childhood and youth he is well known by Mr. J. LACIS, the present chairman of the board of the DV Association in New York; however, in answer to my question, the latter said that he could not answer for H.B.'s political reliability, because H.B. is said to have changed a great deal since the Latvian period and since their last brief meeting after World War II.

All this is just theory, and it is difficult to say what is actually going on.

COMMENT: Re Roberts ANCANS - Oswald BLUMIT, 45 Myopia Road, Wollaston 70, Mass comes from Tilza, Latvia as does ANCANS. BLUMIT reportedly stated that some members of ANCANS family were communists.

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